

What is claimed is:

1. A tool for associating characters, comprising:  
a segmentation module that associates two or more characters into a segment; and  
a user interface that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module.
2. The tool recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface  
displays a plurality of characters; and  
provides an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment.
3. The tool recited in claim 2, wherein the indicator can be modified by a user to change which characters are associated together into the segment.
4. The tool recited in claim 4, where  
the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into the segment; and  
the user can extend the bar to add characters to the segment.
5. The tool recited in claim 4, wherein  
the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into a segment; and  
the user can contract the bar to remove characters from the segment.
6. The tool recited in claim 2, wherein the user interface  
provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module.
7. The tool recited in claim 2, wherein the user interface

displays a second indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters associated together into a second segment.

8. The tool recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface displays a plurality of characters on two or more lines; and provides an indicator that

indicates which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment, and

can be modified by a user to change associate one or more of the characters on different lines together into the segment.

9. The tool recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module.

10. The tool recited in claim 1, further comprising an electronic ink recognition module for recognizing at least one of the characters from electronic ink.

11. A tool for converting characters of a first type into characters of a second type, comprising:

a segmentation module that associates two or more characters of the first type into a segment;

a user interface that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module; and

a character conversion module that converts the characters of the segment into at least one character of the second type.

12. The tool recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface displays a plurality of characters; and

provides an indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment.

13. The tool recited in claim 12, wherein the indicator can be modified by a user to change which characters are associated together into the segment.

14. The tool recited in claim 13, where  
the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into the segment; and  
the user can extend the bar to add characters to the segment.

15. The tool recited in claim 13, wherein  
the indicator appears as a bar running adjacent to characters associated together into a segment; and  
the user can contract the bar to remove characters from the segment.

16. The tool recited in claim 12, wherein the user interface  
provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module.

17. The tool recited in claim 12, wherein the user interface  
displays a second indicator indicating which of the plurality of characters associated together into a second segment.

18. The tool recited in claim 11, wherein the user interface  
displays a plurality of characters on two or more lines; and  
provides an indicator that  
indicates which of the plurality of characters are associated together into the segment, and

can be modified by a user to change associate one or more of the characters on different lines together into the segment.

19. The tool recited in claim 1, wherein the user interface provides a menu command that allows a user to designate the segmentation of characters by the segmentation module.

20. The tool recited in claim 11, further comprising an electronic ink recognition module for recognizing at least one of the characters of the first type from electronic ink.

21. A method of associating two or more characters into a segment;  
receiving a plurality of characters;  
providing an indicator that associates a first group of the plurality of characters into a segment;  
receiving input modifying the indicator to associate a second group of the plurality of characters into the segment.

22. The method recited in claim 21, wherein the second group includes the first group and additional characters.

23. The method recited in claim 21, wherein the second group includes only a portion of the first group of characters.

24. The method recited in claim 21, wherein  
the indicator is a bar adjacent to the first group of characters; and  
the input changes a length or position of the bar so that the bar is adjacent to the second group of characters.

25. The method recited in claim 21, further including  
displaying the first group of characters on a first line;

displaying a first portion of the second group of characters on the first line;  
displaying a second portion of the second group of characters on a second line; and  
receiving input that modifies the indicator to extend from the first line to the second  
line.